California GARDEN

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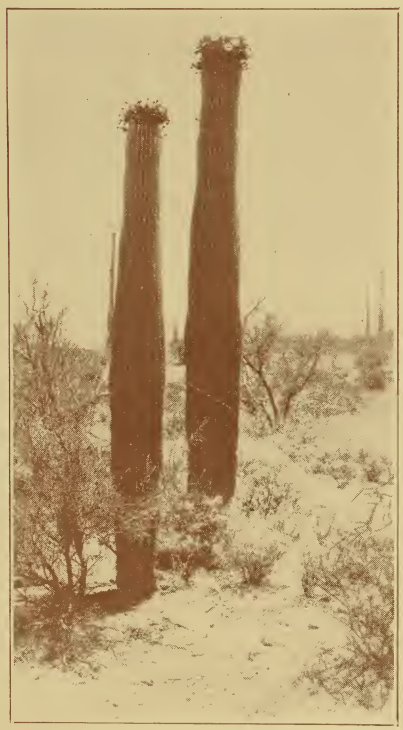

Sahuaro or Giant Cactus

(Carnegia Gigantea)

Colorado Desert, Imperial County, Southern Caliornia

SEPTEMBER
1936

•

Garden Network

By Ruth R. Nelson

•

South African Plants

By C. I. Jerabek

•

The September Garden

By Walter Birch, Jr.

HARRIS SAYS:

Our Early Winter Blooming Sweet Peas are now ready—30 separate colors.

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Fancy Mixture 25c per oz.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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Subscription to Magazine, $1.00 per year; Membership $1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined, $2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 7:30 P. M.

Toft Printing Co., 1129 2nd St., San Diego

Report of the August and September Meetings

Floral meetings have been worth while during August and September with imported talent and home ingenuity giving their best to association followers and their friends.

The imported talent was none other than Miss K. C. Stanford of South Africa, not a dusky belle of the Veldt, but an upstanding English woman who has carved out a nursery for herself from African fastnesses. It is stocked with African plant material for the rest of the world. San Diego benefits particularly from greater knowledge of African plants because they do so well here and so many have already become favorites, for which Miss Kate Sessions of San Diego and the Floral association is, we fear, greatly to blame. May she continue to wave pretty posies from other lands before our noses.

Miss Stanford visited San Diego on her first trip to this country. Bringing her here was a real achievement on the part of the association. She had spoken on the International Conference of Rock Gardeners in May in London before crossing. Here in the United States she was naturally an attraction for the gardening clubs of the country. The Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs listened to her at the Bon Marche in Seattle before she came in August.

The September meeting was opened by C. I. Jerabek who opined some views on African plants of his own. He brought specimens to show and tagged them again. What is good enough for Mr. Jerabek in return for this beneficent gesture? Whatever it is he should have it. Following him Mrs. Mildred Larson of Carlsbad showed versatility by giving advice on the planting of bulbs in general. Everybody knew she was a lily expert and now they know she branches out which is a good example for every person with a garden on his or her conscience.

The last speaker on this well rounded program was Henry Gibbs and he very sensibly told how to plant sweet peas for the spring flower show, thus getting two quails with one bullet. Mr. Gibbs is both a gardener and a flower show chairman of long experience. He had plenty of pointed advice to give, something that is rarer than it ought to be.

Ada Perry.

Garden Contest Awards

Large Garden

1st prize (medal) Julius Wangenheim—Front and Juniper.

2nd prize (ribbon) Mrs. Hildreth Peckham—La Playa.

3rd prize (ribbon) Mrs. George Heynemann.

Medium Size Garden

1st prize (medal) Mrs. Samuel Durr—Palmetto Way.

2nd prize (ribbon) M. C. Bristol, 810 W. Upas.

3rd prize (ribbon) Mrs. Milton Heller—Zola street.

Small Garden

1st prize (medal) Mrs. Grace Trevey, 4162 3rd street.

2nd prize (ribbon) Alma Marks, 2441 Pamo Avenue.

3rd prize (ribbon) Otto E. Pamkopf, 2915 Meade Avenue.

Special Awards

(Ribbon) Church of the New Jerusalem, for exceptionally meritorious rock work and planting.

(Ribbon) Mrs. Herbert Evans, Plumosa Way. For first of former trophy winners.

Judges

Spring—John Morley, Rolland Hoyt, Lena Patterson.

Fall—Fred Bode, Rolland Hoyt, Lena Patterson.

Committee Appointments

Mrs. Greer announces the following appointments to serve on committees during the ensuing year:

Program Committee

Mrs. Robert Morrison
Mr. Frederic Jackson
Mr. C. I. Jerabek
Miss K. O. Sessions
Mrs. Mary A. Greer

House Committee

Miss Alice Halliday.
Miss Etta Schwieder
Mrs. John Nuttall
Mrs. Frederic Jackson
Mrs. Robert Morrison
Mrs. Rawson Pickard
Mrs. Mary A. Greer

The Fall Flower Show . . . .

By K. O. SESSIONS

Our Thirtieth Fall Flower Show was a commendable display and proves the strong interest taken by our garden minded citizens and esecially the small garden owners. The entries by professionals were smaller than usual. The building was a very good one for the show.

A few new plant specimens were shown and there should have been more, the field for new material is so inviting, and a show is the best place for their introduction.

The dahlia exhibit in the amateur section was very strong with twenty-nine divisions for competition. The professionals had only eight divisions, but the Rockleigh and the Comstock exhibits were very full and handsome. The dahlia selected as the finest in the show was the "Buckeye King" but the "Adirondack" was larger and a fine color but not so well displayed.

The zinnias were abundantly displayed and competition keen in the amateur class. The first prize given in the professional class was for a large display of many varieties with several new types. The arrangement was excellent. Critics said it was the finest ever exhibited at any of our shows. Zinnia Haageana or augustifolia, the small, many colored Mexican variety should be more generally grown for cut flowers and the garden. It is so satisfactory.

The asters were feebly presented as were the marigolds. The marigolds in variety are such good late fall flowers and so colorful they must be more generously grown.

The begonias, such a great success in San Diego, were not abundantly shown but some excellent tall growing tuberous variety were well displayed. There were also some hanging baskets from a private garden.

The flowering vines in flower, were few but the Thunbergia grandiflora and Tecoma mackerii, choice pale blue and soft pink, were excellent. An evergreen, Wisteria megasperma, with a dark purplish flower was more interesting than beautiful.

The one gourd display was both generous, interesting and unique and of good quality. A basket of assorted gourds makes a nattractive ornament for the fall and winter for a home or a clubroom.

The one large display of roses from Chula Vista was a fine lesson in arrangement. The roses were in bamboo vases, painted brown and of various heights, making each specimen show to the best advantage and with foliage. The ground was brown peat and the border of Japanese box, a most suitable hedge for a rose garden.

The display of flower arrangements had many excellent, artistic and educational entries for the fourteen specials. A group of four specimens by a Chinese lady was particularly fine.

The cactus and succulent display had choice specimens, but few exhibitors. The collection of twelve specimen cacti of good size won first prize and the twelve best succulents contained many rare though small specimens. This class of plants will each year become larger and more interesting since Balboa park has now established gardens for each and the collections will grow annually in numbers of varieties and size and can become the best in the United States and the most convenient for study in the world, for the climate suits them. The small table rock gardens were the finest ever with a greater variety of arrangements.

The big display of the show was made by the Navy and was exceptional in arrangement, variety of specimens and good quality. The hostess committee was efficient and faithful and the garden minded visitors lingered about the displays making notes for the future.

The Hostess Committee and judges were:

Hostess Committee—Mrs. Robert Morrison, Miss Alice Halliday, Mrs. Frederic Jackson, Mrs. Harold Taylor, Mrs. W. H. Harper, Mrs. Henry Adams, Mrs. Charles Darling, Mrs. Mary Greer.

Judges (General)—Mr. Silas Osborn, Mr. John Marshall, Mr. Victor May, Mr. F. W. James, Mr. Cowie.

Judges (Arrangements) — Mrs. Arthur Shoven, Miss Alice Rainford, Mrs. Addison Housh.

A SURPRISE GARDEN PICTURE

During the last week of August we set out with a Yosemite Guide for the floor of the High Sierras.

Anticipating that increased feeling of freedom from the world of affairs, we bade the last tree farewell as our ponies trudged up the winding trail and we caught sight of peak after peak patched with snow in the amethyst setting of the broad expanses of the Sierra Ranges.

'Twas at an altitude of 13,000 feet that we suddenly rounded a wall of solid stone and were amazed to see spread out on this mountain floor, the brilliant coloring of a wild garden in full bloom.

Lupins by the millions, tall and fully flowered, lupins of every hue; larkspur, royal blue and rose, each flower an inch across; and goldenrod just a bit daintier and more radiantly gold than its relatives in lower levels, and many another dainty flower that I didn't know. It seemed unbelievable that the blossoming urge of life should bring into being such a garden when the seeds could but fall into crevices of stone and lie hidden under the snow to await this brief summer showing.

While we were striving to catch the full significance of this marvel of nature, a group joined us in which were several German Gardeners. They were even more amazed than we were, and after a long silence and examination of individual blooms, they said, "It simply can't be done!"

Marion King.

This department conducted in memory of Harriet Sefton Campbell.

Garden Network . . . .

By RUTH R. NELSON

My little once-in-awhile Irish gardener looked at my terraced geranium bed and said: "Sure, I can tell you how to make them do better. Geraniums like to reach out with their roots, and the soil in this hot corner dries out and packs down so hard they can't do it here. You better change them around a bit."

So, very soon, I went into the garden one cool cloudy morning to struggle with this problem of certain geraniums which refused to content themselves where I wanted to grow. Result . . . a radical change in the contour of the flower-bed, made by moving several plants of a lovely double coral pink into a shadier corner, a number of "singles" to still another location; putting the really choice varieties into the lath house for a quicker recovery; and throwing away the remaining surplus

The first five minutes of digging revealed the true diagnosis of the sickly plants. A veritable network of powerful roots underlaid the sunny garden bed and made the situation of the geraniums undoubtedly hopeless. Roots of three pittosporums of treelike proportions, a thriving dracena and a cotoneaster, two tall eucalyptus, together with the husky roots of the heavy English ivy upon the nearby garden wall, had all become laced into a thirsty network of such demanding strength that plants of smaller types will probably never thrive there. Moved to their new locations, and with most of their leaves stripped off, within three days the plants showed signs of new growth. Doubtless my original mistake was the casual method I had used when planting the geranium slips three years ago. The bed had been well prepared, and I seem to remember simply making a straight deep hole with a tool I have for that purpose, sticking in the selected slips, and filling in around them with sand. I am now ready to concede that a better start was what they needed, and that a more generous hole well prepared would have improved the chances for growth of my cuttings.

I have also learned recently that August is the proper month to cut back all geraniums. This insures winter blooms and prepares for a strong growth during the rainy season.

These two "tips" on geranium care had been welcome news to me, and while I chopped away at my network of tree roots, they suggested to me another, and possible garden network, by which the readers of the California Garden might personally broadcast interesting garden lore, and vital information they may have acquired by painful experience. Information we cannot find in the catalogues. Based upon the certain knowledge that EVERYONE who loves and possesses a garden, desires to talk about it, a network column of such pertinent items might help many an amateur to greater success. This idea may amuse our experts. but let's ask the editor whether it might not help him, as well as each of us.

I have a wise tip on stream-lining for a starter. From my artistic landscape neighbor and friend, Glenn A. Moore, I learned the simple trick of properly "lining up" any changes I wish to make in the contours of the various flower beds into which my garden is interestingly broken up. His rule, which has proven an excellent one whenever new plantings have been arranged, is this that in a well-groomed garden the corners, or curves of each flower bed must pick up the line of the one adjacent to it. Since I have given serious consideration to this idea the picture of the entire garden is far more satisfying, and gives a pleasantly smooth and stream-lined effect, although there is not a straight unbroken line in it.

This summer a family of young orioles which feasted at my crumb tray, pointed out to me the odd place where they drank of early morning dew. The first fledglings which I saw using this reservoir, had been hopping about in the rock garden, going slowly from one large aloe plant to another, sharp little eyes searching, searching. What kind of insect could this young bird expect to discover in such an improbable hiding place? Soon, however, leaning down daintily, she began to sip from the heart of the largest aloe in the group. She visited another plant, and another. At a later time, when a smart July shower had just cleared away, I saw one of her brilliant young brothers flitting back and forth, drinking fresh pure rainwater from the same reservoirs, instead of visiting one of my several bird baths.

Now the orioles have all left the garden, and nearly all of the other birds, too, as it is the last week of August, with autumn not far away. But the berries are ripening on the pittosporum, and the narcissus are springing up in the zinnia bed. There is always something "getting ready" and so I can say, any day of the year, to my friends of the California Garden: "Bienvinida" to a garden among the eucalyptus at the little garden house on Paseo Delicious at Rancho Santa Fe.

WATER LILIES

Water lilies have displayed their beauties to the utmost, this year, by reason of the continued warm nights. They have averaged larger size and richer coloring, and because of the plentiful production they now need some assistance that they may give you more the next month.

Raise the containers above the water (or lower the water if you choose-. Then put on some fresh soil heavily mixed with blood and bone above that, giving them fully one inch of sand to hold the fertilizer from washing away, and also to hold it away from the fish, who love to nozzle it out and make a good meal of it.

We have noticed the unusual number of blooms among the shy flowering kinds, particularly the double ones, of which we have five varieties.

The water snails must also like warm weather since their families have greatly increased this summer.

—Bertha M. Thomas.

South African Plants . . . .

By C. I. Jerabek

Few people in San Diego realize how much we are indebted to South Africa for the many introductions of plant life which have been sent here from time to time during the last half-century.

The South Africa and Southern California climates are very similar, thereby most any plant that is native to the former country will thrive with us here. Following is a list of some of those now grwing in San Diego:

Leucadendrum argentum—Silver-tree.
Podocarpus elongata.
Erythrina caffra—Coral-tree.
Schotia brachypetala.
Acokanthera spectabilis—Winter Sweet.
Aster fruticosa.
Bauhinia Galpina.
Cassia nairobensis—Large-leaved Senna.
Carissa grandiflora—Natal Plum.
Catha edulis—Khat, Cafta.
Coleonema album — Breath-of-Heaven.
Crotalaria capensis.
Dovyalis caffra—Kei-apple.
Elaeodendron capense.
Euryops athanasiae.
Gardenia Thunbergia.
Grewia occidentalis.
Leonotis Leonurus—Lion's-Tail.
Melianthus major—Honey-Bush.
Plumbago capensis—Leadwort.
Psoralea pinnata.
Sutherlandia frutescens — Rattle-Box.
Erica carnea.
Erica Bowieana.
Erica Charlesiana.
Erica regerminans.
Erica translucens.
Strelitzia Nicolai—White Bird-of-Paradise.
Strelitzia parvifolia—Lance Bird-of-Paradise.
Strelitzia Reginae—Yellow Bird-of-Paradise.
Asparagus asparagoides—Smilax.
Asparagus falcatus.
Aspragus plumosus—Fern A.
Asparagus plumosus var. tenuissimus—Wire-stem Fern.
Asparagus myricladus.
Asparagus sprengeri.
Asparagus scandens var. deflexus—Basket A.
Felicia amelloides—Blue Daisy.
Nemesia in many colors.
Dimorphotheca aurantiaca, with its hybrids—Cape-Marigold.
Gazania aurantiaca, coccinea.
Anchusa capensis — Forget-me-not.
Arctotis grandis, acaulis and some hybrids.
Venidium fastuosum — Monarch of the Veld.
Pelargonium crispum.
Pelargonium echinatum.
Sanseviera cylindrica—Bowstring-Hemp.
Gladiolus in many types and colors.
Aristea ecklonis.
Amaryllis Bellodonna — Belladonna-Lily.
Babiana stricta.
Bulbine alooides.
Clivia minata—Kafir Lily.
Dierama pulcherrima — Wand-Flower.
Freesia in many colors.
Haemanthus Katharine—Blood-Lilt.
Ixia.
Morea bicolor.
Morea iridioides.
Nerine sarniense—Guernsey-Lily.
Ornithogalum caudatum.
Tritonia, several varieties.
Sparaxis tricolor.
Vallotta speciosa — George or Scarborough Lily.
Tritoma, several kinds—Red Hot Pokers.
Watsonias.
Zantedeschia aethiopica — Common Calla Lily.
Zantedeschia Elliottiana—Golden Calla Lily.
Zantedeschia albo-maculata — Spotted Calla Lily.
Ceropegia Woodii.
Thunbergia alta — Black-eyed Clock Vine.

The following are growing elsewhere in California, Mr. Hugh Evans of Santa Monica having the most introductions.

Agathosma villosa.
Agathosma microphylla.
Barosma ovata.
Barosma pulchella.
Bowkeria Gerardiana.
Chironia exiflora.
Chironia Baccifera.
Calodendrum capensis.
Dombeya natalensis.
Erica cerinthoides.
Erica verticillata.
Hibiscus calycinus.
Hibiscus pedunculatus.
Harpephyllum—Kafir Plum.
Grewia caffra.
Greyia sutherlandia.
Lobelia erinus.
Mahernia verticillata.
Mackaya bella.
Noltea africana.
Podalyria calyptrata.
Podalyria servicea.
Pelargonium zonale.
Pentas lanceolata.
Protea latifolia.
Protea obtusifolia.
Protea Susannae.
Psoralea aphylla.
Schotia speciosa.
Sparmannia africana.
Sutera grandiflora.
Turraea obtusifolio.
Virgilia capensis.

This is only a partial list, nor does it include any succulents which are far too numerous to mention.

On Miss Stanford's (of Bloem Erf, Stellenbosch S. Africa) recent lecture many interesting pictures of other desirable plants were shown, that could easily be grown in California, and would greatly enhance the beauty of the gardens throughout the state.

FIRST GOURD BOOK

Gardeners interested in gourds, and the number grows each season, will welcome the "First Gourd Book," The Gourd-Vine, Vernon, Connecticut, fifty cents.

This 33-page booklet designed to aid the amateur who wishes to experiment with gourds, gives concise directions for cultivation, hand-pallination, treatment of gourd pests, gourd arrangement in the home and in exhibits. S. B. O.

The September Garden . . .

By WALTER BIRCH, JR.

September is really the Month to get busy with your planting. It is a good time to start Hardy Annuals, and Perennials seeded this month will bloom next Spring in most cases. Some of the best Annuals to start at this time are: Snapdragons, the Rust Proof varieties now come in separate colors as well as the mixed; Stocks preferably the Early Giant Imperial or Bismarck strain; Calendulas, the Sensation and Chrysantha are the two best varieties although the Orange King and Lemon Queen are hard to beat, we don't think so much of the Orange Shaggy on better acquaintance; Annual Chrysanthemums or Painted Daisies; Clarkia; Cineraria; African Daisy; Nemesia; Cosmos; Bachelor Buttons; Sweet Sultans; Pansies; Early or Winter Flowering Sweet Peas; Annual Larkspur, the New Giant Imperial Types are far superior to the older types for Cut Flowers as they branch from the base of the plant so that each spike of bloom has a good long strong stem. These may be had either in mixture or in a number of separate colors. Of course one should not overlook some of the semi double varieties of Nasturtiums especially the first of all the semi double varieties, Golden Gleam, also Scarlet Gleam and Gleam Hybrids. These make a very bright showing in your garden and certainly are easy enough to grow. Perennials which may be started this month are: Columbine; Double Daisies; Canterbury Bells; Coreopsis, the new double ones are rather attractive; Cyclamen; Delphinium; Foxglove; Forget-me-not; Gaillardia; Hollyhocks; Pentstemon; Perennial Poppies; Pyrethrum; Verbenas; Violas, and Wallflowers.

Bulbs: Gladiolus, if the Bulbs have been dug for several months, may be planted successfully this month, although the sooner they go in the ground the better, if you want Winter Blooms from them. Freesia Bulbs should be planted pretty soon. One should really make a planting of Ranunculus Bulbs about every three weeks starting early in September and continuing through January. Anemones may also be planted now. The Narcissus or Daffodil Bulbs are available now, but it is really a little better to wait till about the first of October to start planting them, then be sure and put the Bulbs down good and deep, that is, cover them about six inches. The Ranunculus Bulbs should be planted with the little points down and covered about one and a half inches.

Sweet Peas: the simplest culture is to dig a trench about twelve inches deep and put in several inches of manure or a thin dressing of Commercial Fertilizer (preferably about a 6-10-4) in the bottom of the trench. Cover with four or five inches of soil and fill trench with a gentle flow of water. Allow water to soak in and then drop your seeds in the mud in the bottom of the trench and cover with an inch of fine dry soil. Do not water again until the Peas are up. If weather immediately after planting is extremely hot shade trench with burlap or cheesecloth until the plants are well established. As the plants grow gradually fill in the trench around them until trench is level. Early Giant Rose, the best rose pink; Early Harmony, the best lavender; Early Vulcan, the best red; Early Snowstorm Improved, white; Early Glitters, cerise; Early Valencia, sunproof orange; Early Oriental, cream; Early Amethyst, royal purple; Early Othello, maroon; Early Blue Bonnet, clear deep blue; Early Blue Bid, violet blue; Early Mrs. Kerr, salmon. Cubor Sulphur Dust is a splendid thing to dust your Sweet Pea Plants with for both Aphis and Mildew.

Have you tried spraying your shrubs, etc., with Dogzoff to keep the neighborhood dogs away from them; it seems to work.

THE POPPY'S SHAME

Murray Skinner

Poppy, haughty Poppy, on your hairy stem sedate,
Poppy, naughty Poppy, do you blush that I relate
What befell in ancient history?
Indeed it is no mystery.

How Tarquian, the proud Tarquian, in his war of other days,
Sent Sextus, his son Sextus, to proceed by treacherous ways
And enlist the Gabian's pity,
Thus to enter Gabium city.

The Gabians, simple Gabians, were bewitched, as it was planned,
And Sextus, still perfidious, soon succeeded to command,
Then he sent for more instructions,
How to compass all obstructions.

And Tarquian in his garden answered not by word of lip,
But a poppy, tallest, largest, he beheaded at a clip,
And he sent it to his son,
Thus to show him how 'twas done.

When Sextus, wicked Sextus, the symbolic message saw,
This poppy, wretched poppy, he obeyed his father's law,
And beheaded without sympathy,
The Gabian aristocracy.

So Poppy, haughty Poppy, as your banners proud you flaunt,
Oh, Poppy, naughty Poppy, does there ever come to haunt,
Your dream, this ancient memory,
And make you blush more vividly?

OCTOBER MEETING

A subject novel to most of the local members of the Association will be presented at the October meeting Tuesday, October 20th. Mr. W. J. Pope will talk on orchids and will illustrate his remarks with slides. Mr. Pope, now a resident of San Diego, was formerly engaged in the culture of orchids in New Jersey, both in the commercial florist field and in charge of a large collection on the grounds of a private estate.

Question Box . . . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN

QUESTION: I have had much trouble with the roots of various flowers in two beds. Think there must be some disease in the soil. How can I sterilize it and with what material? Please give directions. A. S. B.

ANSWER: Carbon bisulphide and formaldehyde are two good sterilizers. Carbon bisulphide is a little more expensive, but after using it the ground can be used sooner than if formaldehyde were applied. To use the carbon, inject about two ounces to every square foot, making the injection two or three inches deep and covering up with earth. Formaldehyde is applied in a 1¼ per cent solution, that is, 1¼ pints of formaldehyde should be diluted with 98¾ pints (about 12½ gallons). One gallon of the diluted material is sufficient to sterilize one cubic foot of soil. Neither carbon bisulphide nor formaldehyde should be used within several feet of plants whose roots may possibly be in the zone treated.

Ground sterilized with carbon bisulphide can be replanted within a week, but if formaldehyde is used a period of weeks, or possibly months, may have to elapse. You should be able to detect no odor of formaldehyde whatever when you replant.

QUESTION: I have lost several rose bushes by their being eaten off under ground. Would moles do this? How can I trap them? Mrs. J.

ANSWER: Moles eat only animal food—worms, crickets, beetles, etc. As far as their food habits go they are entirely beneficial. Any harm they do comes from tunneling near the surface of the ground. Undoubtedly gophers have destroyed your roses; they are particularly fond of them, for some reason or other.

You can either trap or poison gophers, or both. Ordinary spring traps are used, carefully placed in their runways which are then closed up. Poison—chiefly strychnine—may be sifted on pieces of vegetables, and these poisoned bits dropped into their runways, which have previously been located by means of a probe.

QUESTION: Two bushes of Scotch broom are covered with black insects. Have tried everything I know of to get rid of them. Can you give me a remedy? L. S.

ANSWER: This insect—it is one of the aphid or plant louse tribe—is unusually persistent and hard to eradicate. Ordinarily these aphis winter over on certain wild plants and move to the brooms in early summer, but in this part of California they may stay on the latter plants during the winter

There are two or three combination sprays you might try, such as oil, tobacco, and water, or lime-sulphur, tobacco and water, or calcium cyanide dust. To make the oil spray use 1 ounce—liquid measure—of any of the standard spray materials, as Peerless, Triple X, Volck, etc., to 2 gallons of soapy water and add one-third of an ounce of black leaf 40. Mix thoroughly and apply as spray with as much force as possible. This is a rather strong spray and may burn the plant tips a little, but unless the aphis are destroyed the plants will become worthless anyhow.

To make the lime-sulphur combination, mix about one-fourth pound of dry lime-sulphur in 2 gallons of water and add black leaf 40 as above, one-third ounce—liquid measure.

The calcium cyandie dust is effective but must be used with care—with especial reference to the operator—and be applied with a duster.

QUESTION: The lower branches of Washington palms are dying—on the branches and stems are numerous raised black spots. What is the cause and remedy? Are insects responsible for this trouble? S. J.

ANSWER: Along the coast Washingtonia palms are quite subject to attacks by a leaf spot fungus that is causing the injury you refer to. Insects are not responsible in any way. Very little is known about this fungus, apparently, and the only recommendation one can make is to cut off and burn the lower and badly affected fronds. Usually the newer fronds are relatively free from injury, but as they become older they are invaded also. It is possible that a spray of 5-5-50 Bordeaux applied after the badly affected leaves have been removed will aid in checking the disease. It would be worth trying, at any rate.

America's Second Annual National Rose Show

Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.

America's Second Annual National Rose Show will be held in beautiful Balboa Park, San Diego, California, on October 10, 11 and 12, that being the only time of the year when good roses are available from practically every state in the union.

The San Diego Rose Society members who staged and directed the show there last year are inspired by its success to make the event annual. The 1935 affair was the largest showing of roses ever held in America and was comparable to the great English Rose Shows.

Prize winning exhibits came from two points in New York. Jackson and Perkins sent buds of their new roses, Eclipse and Gloaming from Newark, N. Y., and they came through in perfect condition. Mr. C. A. Davis, of Buffalo, amateur grower, sent an assortment that captured several prizes.

The premium list is arranged to attract both large and small growers and give all classes opportunity for competition. Exhibits are invited both from private gardens and nurseries of America and Canada. Last year $5,000 was offered in cash prizes and approximately this standard will be maintained this season. Three American Rose Society medals are on the list and other individual prizes. The show is to be judged

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Begonia Cultural Hints for September

By J. PAUL WALKER

The Tuberous season is passing but the other types, especially the fibrous, are at their best. As the nights become cooler, the plants should be watered less and that done in the morning. Feeding should be cut down as the plant passes its heavy blooming period and discontinued before it goes dormant.

It is now time to plan the winter garden. Replace those begonias that are going dormant with the winter blooming fibrous and semperflorens kinds and such complimentary plants as Cinerarias, Primulas of various sorts and Pansies.

A few of the new multaflora type of tuberous begonia, imported from Europe, have been grown locally this year. These plants resemble the semperflorens in growth, are low and bushy and hold their small flowers well above the foliage. The flowers are like the other tuberous in form and color and the stems are stiff enough to hold the flowers upright. We will probably see more of them in the future.

Tuberous—These begonias have not done well this year in this vicinity. Decay has developed in the stems of many plants and this rot is apt to follow down the stem into the tuber, destroying it. A plant showing wilt should be removed from the bed and the soil in the pot watered only enough to keep it from being actually dry. Remove broken and dead stems and leaves which tend to start decay if left in contact with other parts of the plant. Early blooming plants are now beginning to go dormant and require less water: healthy growing plants may be treated as one usually treats them.

Fibrous—Now is the time to sit back and enjoy your fibrous begonias. They still require considerable water and may be fed such plant food as one usually uses. Visit your neighbor's garden and pick up new kinds of begonias to grace your own.

Bedding—These kinds are easily grown. Water and plant food keep them blooming profusely. Seed may now be planted for late winter and early spring flowering plants. Some kinds grow well in winter and bloom out in the open sun.

Rex—Most of the Rex are now at their best but will soon show signs of becoming dormant. As this occurs water less, for they do not need it as when growing rapidly.

Begonia Plants Received From Mexico

Mr. W. H. Fraser, a member of the Society living in Mexico City, had expressed his willingness to assist us in our efforts to secure some of the species of begonias native of Mexico and other sorts growing there that might be new to us and in May sent us a package containing fifty-seven begonia plants.

A permit for their importation had been secured from the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington.

When received by the Bureau of plant Quarantine at San Francisco some of the plants were found to be infested with nematode (root-knot), so none of the consignment could be released to us. This was a great disappointment. We appealed to the inspector to remove the roots and send us those portions of the plants which could be used for cuttings, in the hope that some could be saved. This he consented to do. Only with this helpful co-operation were we able to salvage any plants from this shipment, which represented much effort and expense to Mr. Fraser.

We quote from the letter accompanying the package from San Francisco:

"Many of the plants had no top growth so that the number of cuttings will probably not conform to the number of plants contained in the shipment. However, we have forwarded every piece of material that we thought would be of any possible value to you, at the same time assuring fou that the nematode infested portions of the plants had been fully removed.

"It is of interest that in removing the roots we intersepted a number of lepidopterous larvae doing serious damage to the crowns and which had not previously been detected. There was no external evidence of their presence in the roots and it was only when they were being removed that they were noted. It was necessary to submit the larvae to Washington for determination as

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they are not known to us. I do not know that the hot water treatment would have been effective against this stage of this type of insect and it was, therefore, rather fortunate that you elected the manner of handling you did. Otherwise, we might have introduced a very undesirable pest of begonias into your plantings."

Receipt of the cuttings was delayed, awaiting our notification and reply; and further by the fact that they arrived in Long Beach on a double holiday and had to again be inspected by the local horticultural authorities. Three weeks after the shipment left Mexico it was received by us.

Begonias of Mexico must come of sturdy stock, for most of the cutting material quickly revived under Mr. Dyckman's care and rooted readily. At this time, we have eighteen or twenty growing plants, some with leaves four inches in diameter.

Among those that have attained sufficient size to identify, are Manacata, Nulumbifolia, Semperflorens and Incarnata. A few others are probably new varieties.

The Society is very grateful to Mr. Fraser for his assistance.—American Begonia Soc. Bulletin.

National Rose Show

(Continued from Page 6)

according to the American Rose Society standard scale and rules for judging, by judges approved by the Society.

A premium schedule giving classes and prizes offered, with definite instructions for packing for long distance shipping will be sent on request. Address, San Diego Rose Society, Box 865, San Diego, Calif.

The shows will be conducted on a high ethical plane under rules guaranteeing awards on the basis of merit alone. There is assurance of the endorsement of the American Rose Society, of which Mr. Forrest L. Hieatt, president of the San Diego Rose Society ,is a trustee.

The show will be free to the public, with a preview for members, contributing sponsors, patrons and invited guests.

ROYAL PALMS OF FLORIDA GIVE WAY TO FIRE AND HOE

Extermination of the wild royal palm—which may have canopied Florida in the time of Ponce de Leon—is in prospect as drainage and road building increase fire hazards, in the opinion of O. F. Cook of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Only one group of these palms has been preserved and made accessible to the public, at the Royal Palm Park southwest of Homestead, and a part of this small reservation burned a few years ago.

The pioneer period of cutting and burning, lasting more than three centuries, reduced the royal palms to a few scattered groups protected from fire by open water or deep swamps.

Royal palms may grow to a height of 100 feet or more, their straight, tapering trunks, ash-gray in color, ending in a plume of rich green leaves. When young they grow as forest undergrowth and do better in groves and shelter-belts than when set along streets and in open grounds. Thousands of young palms are destroyed every year, says Mr. Cook. Seeds are scattered by birds, but the seedlings, which look like coarse grass, often are hoed out as weeds. If the young palms were protected they might become abundant again over most of the Florida peninsula. Royal palms grow freely in Bermuda, which is about as far north as Charleston, S. C.

CITRUS DISEASES

The attractive deep green luxuriant foliage of orange and other citrus trees creating a background for the golden orange or yellow fruits forms a distinctive garden picture in the California garden. Unfortunately, too often the real charm of this unique featue of our gardens is marred by the poor physical condition of the trees.

Dr. H. S. Fawcett's book, "Citrus Diseases and Their Control," (McGraw-Hill Co., New York, $6.00) offers to the gardener, amateur or professional, who requires thrifty citrus trees for his garden plans, an opportunity to acquaint himself with the latest information on diagnosing the cause of and effective treatment of unhealthy trees. The book as now published has been re-edited and considerably expanded, and is comprised of 656 pages, and is illustrated by fifteen color plates with many in black and white. This is the most authoritative available literature on the subject and the unusual heavy demand from the commercial growers of citrus in the state for detailed information on the subject has been the incentive for the publication of this book so comprehensive in its scope. Not a book, perhaps, for the small garden library, but one that is absolutely essential in every library, large or small, public or private, which portends to adequately cover California horticulture. S. B. O.

Ferns of the Northwest . . . .

The profusion and strikingly beautiful qualities of California wild flowers rather rob the lovely native California ferns of their proper dues. If you have scouted about among the huge silver boulders on the Sierra heights you must have been struck by the appealing quality of the tiny ferns which nestle at the bases of the cliffs or follow the crevices of their shady sides.

Even if you never get up into the Sierra you must have seen and loved the wild ferns in the foothill rocks and on shady banks—wished to know more about them and wondered why our wild flower books have paid so little attention to them.

Two California wild flower manuals (those by Munz and by Jepson) contain some description of the ferns, but in the "Ferns of the Northwest," by Theodore C. Frye, Professor of Botany at the University of Washington, an entire small volume is devoted to them. This little fern book is published by the Metropolitan Press, Portland, Oregon, and fills a very real need. It is high time that we paid more attention to our lovely native ferns.

Lester Rowntree, Carmel, Calif.

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